DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY _____ DATE _____

RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE _____
TS AUTH. _____ REASON(S) _____
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☐ RELEASABLE☐
RELEASE DENIED☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS _____

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SHEAFFER JEANNE M
78 STATE 303865

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ORIGIN ARA-15
INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCS-06 DODE-00 CA-01 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00
INRE-00 H-02 L-03 PA-02 TRSE-00 MCT-02 SY-05
USSS-00 AID-05 /079 R
DRAFTED BY ARA:GBROWN:PGA
APPROVED BY ARA:SGIBSON
S/S-O:JTHYDEN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO IMMEDIATE
FBI WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0047
JUSTICE IMMEDIATE
CINCSOUTHCOM QUARRY HTS CZ IMMEDIATE
CINCMAC SCOTT AFB ILL IMMEDIATE
JS REDCOM/RCJ2 MACDILL AFB FLA IMMEDIATE
USCINCRED FT MCPHERSON GA IMMEDIATE
CDR 82ND AIRBORNE CORPS FT BRAGG NC IMMEDIATE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE IMMEDIATE ATTN J-2
UNCLAS STATE 303865
E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CASC, GY
SUBJECT: PRESS BRIEFING
THERE WERE NO QUESTIONS ON GUYANA AT THE DEPARTMENT'S
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NOON PRESS BRIEFING, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30.
AT THE PRESIDENT'S PRESS CONFERENCE, NOVEMBER 30, ONLY ONE
QUESTION ON GUYANA WAS ASKED. FOLLOWING IS TEXT:
Q: DOES THE NATURE OF THAT CULT SAY ANYTHING ABOUT
AMERICA AND SECONDLY WHAT CAN THE GOVERNMENT DO TO AVOID
FUTURE JONESTOWNS?
A: WELL I OBVIOUSLY DON'T THINK THAT THE JONESTOWN CULT
WAS TYPICAL IN ANY WAY OF AMERICA. I THINK THESE WERE
PEOPLE WHO BECAME OBSESSED WITH A PARTICULAR LEADER'S
PHILOSOPHY, THEY WERE OBVIOUSLY MISLED, A TRAGEDY
RESULTED. IT DID NOT TAKE PLACE IN OUR OWN COUNTRY. IN
RETROSPECT ALL OF US CAN DEPLORE WHAT DID OCCUR. IT'S
UNCONSTITUTIONAL FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF OUR COUNTRY TO
INVESTIGATE OR TO ISSUE LAWS AGAINST ANY GROUP NO MATTER
HOW MUCH THEY MIGHT DEPART FROM NORMAL CUSTOM WHICH IS
BASED ON RELIGIOUS BELIEF. THE ONLY EXCEPTION IS WHEN
THERE IS SOME SUBSTANTIVE ALLEGATION THAT THE ACTIVITIES

)F THOSE RELIGIOUS GROUPS DIRECTLY VIOLATE A FEDERAL LAW.
'IGHT POINT OUT THAT CONGRESSMAN RYAN AND OTHER
)NGRESSMEN DID GO TO THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT SEVERAL WEEKS
)R MONTHS AGO TO GO INTO THE SO CALLED BRAINWASHING
.SPECTS OF A FEW RELIGIOUS CULTS AROUND THE COUNTRY.
'Y UNDERSTANDING IS THAT THE SO CALLED PEOPLE'S TEMPLE
'AS NOT ONE OF THOSE THOUGHT BY THEM AT THAT TIME TO
'E INDULGING IN BRAINWASHING. IT WAS A RECENT, LATE
)EVELOPMENT THAT NO ONE SO FAR AS I KNOW WAS ABLE TO
.NTICIPATE OR TO ASSESS ADEQUATELY SO I DON'T THINK THAT
'E OUGHT TO HAVE AN OVER REACTION BECAUSE OF THE JONES-
'OWN TRAGEDY BY INJECTING THE GOVERNMENT INTO TRYING TO
'NCLASSIFIED
'NCLASSIFIED

ONTROL PEOPLES' RELIGIOUS BELIEFS; AND I BELIEVE THAT
'E ALSO DON'T NEED TO DEPLORE ON A NATIONWIDE BASIS THE
'ACT THAT THE JONESTOWN CULT, SO CALLED, WAS TYPICAL OF
.MERICA, BECAUSE IT IS NOT. END TEXT VANCE
'NCLASSIFIED